



**“THE RIGHT
CHANGE AT THE
RIGHT TIME!”**

**Okubo Toshimichi 大久保
利通**

*DO YOU WANT TO OWN YOUR **OWN** LAND?
DO YOU WANT TO STOP SEEING ARROGANT SAMURAI'S WITH THEIR SWORDS ON?
DO YOU WANT MINORITY GROUP TO LIVE WITHOUT PUBLIC DISCRIMINATION?
DO YOU WANT PROSPEROUS AND POWERFUL JAPAN?*

Now, the right time has come. With Okubo Toshimichi's reform, you can own your OWN land. Burakumin, or outcasts, can be freed from official discrimination. With Okubo Toshimichi's reconstruction, there are no more former samurais, wearing the swords and boasting their power all over the place. With Okubo Toshimichi's recognition on superiority of Western technology and political system, Japan can soon catch up the Western World. With Okubo Toshimichi's vision on future Japan, Japan can build a modern industrial Economy and strongest military power in the world. **He is the man who can change and bring chances for Japanese to live a fair, jubilant, and proud life.**

Ideas & Beliefs:

- (Before Meiji Restoration) Japan can not proceed alliance between imperial court and Tokugawa Shogunate therefore, overthrows Tokugawa shogun from the country.
- Japan needs an organized, gradual revolution, rather than radical, unexpected change.
- Japan's development and stabilization was first to Okubo; expansion had to come after that.
- Government has to lead development, not the people and the corporations.
- Opening the country was absolutely necessary for Japan in order to develop quickly enough to catch up with the rest of the world.
 - He realized military superiority of West due to the bombardment of Kagoshima in 1863
- He supports Otto von Bismark of Prussia's belief, "Enrich the country, strengthen the army" - fukoku kyohei.

About Okubo:

Early Life

Okubo Toshimichi was born on August 10th, 1830, in Kagoshima. His child name was Shougesa (正袈裟). When he was young, he studied with people such as Saigo Takamori, who also became important figures of Meiji Japan. In 1844, he changed his name into Toshisada(利濟). Finally, he changed his name into Toshimich(利通). Later he became one of the leaders of Satsuma Han. Satsuma Han was the biggest enemy of Tokugawa Bakufu.

Meiji Restoration

In 1868, the alliance of Satsuma Han and Choshu Han destroyed Tokugawa Bakufu and established a new government led by the emperor. As a member of the Iwakura Mission, Okubo traveled the west and acquired new ideas for Japan. After returning to Japan, he established factories, schools and policies in order to accelerate the economic development of Japan. After the situation was settled, Saigo Takamori stated that Japan should invade Korea. Okubo went against this idea, saying that Japan is still in the process of development. The government was on Okubo's side. Saigo went back to Satsuma. He put on a rebellion, but failed. Saigo Takamori ended up committing suicide. However, Okubo Toshimichi was also assassinated by people who were against him, such as Shimada Ichiro. Okubo was killed by 6 people in Tokyo on May 14th, 1878.